

Somers, Elaine

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 9:02 AM
To: Somers, Elaine; Allnutt, David
Subject: Gratitude
Attachments: oped record conflict.1.docx; letter to editor re deis.docx

Hello Ms. Somers and Mr. Allnutt,

Your DEIS comment is now circulating among those of us on Whidbey Island (and in the region) who have worked so hard to address the deficiencies in the DEIS and to raise the alarm about what the Navy's expansion will do to our culture, nature, agriculture, local economy and health. As you may know, the pro-Navy forces here are strong so any questioning of the Navy's right to expand tends to polarize the community. To have a government agency raise concerns we also have is, to be a bit florid, like a victim of abuse finally being told she isn't nuts.

I want to thank you for your clarity and respect coupled with reasoned critique. I want to thank you for labeling the DEIS as EC2 - environmental concerns. I want to thank you for recommending the Navy monitor noise at ground level to help characterize more fully the actual duration, frequency and intensity of exposures to noise related impacts. I want to thank you for suggesting a supplemental health assessment - and offering to convene agencies and organizations to this end. I want to thank you for citing "mobile source air pollutant emissions" and how they will mitigate them. I have not seen other experts point to these pollutants and the jets fly over our best farmland, some in organic designations. I want to thank you for asking the Navy to responsibly account for legacy or new fire fighting chemicals given the already contaminated wells and the deep concern about further contamination. I want to thank you for offering them further resources on health effects and requesting they bring these together in one place in the EIS.

I am attaching some of my editorial offerings to the Whidbey papers. Without being incendiary I am trying to raise awareness on the island of the threats to our way of life - and life itself - by the Navy's expansion of Growler training operations. You can read or not, but if you do you will understand why I am so thankful to you and what a relief it is to have a government agency call out the flaws in the DEIS.

If you have not seen or heard of the economic study a group called the Sustainable Economy Collaborative commissioned to begin to document the hidden costs of NASWI, you can read it [here](#).

Especially at a moment when the EPA is under siege, your courage and clarity give us hope that our system is still working as it should and that the voiceless ones - including nature itself - still have a voice.

Be well and strong

(b) (6)

~~~~~

(b) (6)

Langley, WA 98260

(b) (6)

~~~~~